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RESOLUTION CONCERNING ETHICAL POSITION
ON THE USE OF HUMAN BODIES IN RESEARCH

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, The use of human cadavers has been increasing in research studies in disciplinary areas outside physical Anthropology; and

WHEREAS, Recognized guidelines have been established in the use of living human subjects, as well as, in the use of animals for research; and

WHEREAS, There is no code of ethics related to the use of cadaver materials;

THEREFORE:

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the American Association of Physical Anthropologists subscribe to the principles that in any laboratory with which investigators are conducting research utilizing human remains they should be treated with the greatest respect, they should not be subjected to tests which are not essential to the research under investigation, they should be maintained in proper condition avoiding unnecessary exposure, and force, individual identities should not be revealed, either by name or photographic illustration, they should be handled in accordance with the standards of the appropriate state anatomical boards and state laws, and finally, human tissues must be returned for proper burial; and

RESOLVED THAT, the National Academy of Sciences National Research Board take appropriate action to recommend and encourage that such guidelines be adhered to without reservation or evasion by all researchers.

